

PEACE, Inc. is more than a job. We are a family. We care about our community. We care about our young ones growing up to be healthy and successful.

PEACE, INC. HEAD START BUS DRIVER

IT FEELS GOOD TO KNOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Jacqueline Perez*

**Dedicated to PEACE, Inc. Since 2015**

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My job is to transport the children safely to and from home and school. We - PEACE, Inc. Head Start bus drivers - also participate in the classroom with the children. We assist teachers with what they need. We have a really good rapport with the children and the other staff. We're just a big part of the whole program in general. We are among staff - and volunteers - who help parents. We get involved with the parents and their needs. Head Start bus drivers, foster grandparents, we are in the classrooms. We all work together as a family. As far as me as a bus driver, I don't have all the teacher qualities and qualifications that the teachers have. But, I can hug a child when needed. I can wipe away tears. I'm here to lend my shoulder. Or, let a child know they'll be ok. Once we - PEACE, Inc. bus drivers - are in the class, we are one big family. I don't look at it as work. We are a family. And, we are helping the children to become a better them.

I was working at a deli making sandwiches. I just sat down one day. I was looking for a better future - a 401K plan, something I could build from. I relate to Head Start and PEACE, Inc. because I was faced with challenges like many of these families we help. Coming in and being able to help these families makes me better. I know where I've been. A lot of these families feel like there is no future. But there is. I can show them I was there and now I'm here. And, I'm still getting to where I need to be. It feels good to know you make a difference. Changing our community is one of our biggest issues now - we need to help our children be better. I think Head Start and PEACE, Inc. do make a big difference. PEACE, Inc. is more than a job. We are a family. We care about our community. We care about our young ones growing up to be healthy and successful. I see that we work hard in that, and I think that's why I love PEACE, Inc. so much.